

Selectmen

1 position - 3 year term

Question No. 1: What in your background and experience qualifies you for the office you seek?

Question No. 2: What are the ramifications of a state cap on spending for the Town of Cohasset?

George V. Adams
18 Reservoir Road

1. Engineers by nature are quick to cut to the facts and eliminate the superfluous. I am no exception. I believe I am qualified to be a selectman for the town of Cohasset because of:

1. 18 years of industrial experience in dealing with people, budgets, projects and deadlines.

2. An engineering education at Boston University, combined with a liberal arts curriculum at Harvard. A combination of the specific and the general.

3. A strong interest in seeing the town of Cohasset improve and prosper along with the willingness to work for that good.

4. The ability to see the town as others see us, from the outside, as well as from the inside.

2. The bulk of the town's spending is on schools and professional services. These are virtually non negotiable due to fiscal autonomy, and binding arbitration. If these services do not use self restraint in preparing their budgets, the brunt of the spending cap limit will have to be born by the remaining town services. This means someone will have to do without or with less. It would be indeed tragic if cuts would have to be made say in assistance to the elderly because of an increase in the school or other budget. I would like to see the selectmen prepare a prioritized list of needed services and request the town departments to respond in the order of this list. This would require some departments to relinquish some items, or services in favor of those in more need. Trying to do this in a town the size of Cohasset without affecting a friend or relative is indeed a tall order and it is going to require the understanding and support of all the town employees as well as the citizens to make this spending cap work. Let's face it, we have to do with less and some of the things we took for granted may not be available this year.

Doris C. Golden
2 Bound Brook Lane

1. I believe my public record speaks for itself in the areas of availability, leadership, fiscal accountability, knowledge of government, but perhaps most importantly the ability to work with people both young and old and from all walks of life.

Having been responsible for the education of our youth was a very serious matter and my ongoing concerns for the taxpayers to fund the learning

process have always been a grave concern to me, after all, we have a large number of semi-retired and retired persons living on fixed incomes residing in town.

Being on the School Committee for the past six years, five of which I was Chairman, I have had experience in such vital areas as: budget planning and presentations, labor negotiations, personnel evaluations, state legislation, contract purchasing and warrant approval, employees' grievances, administrative duties, state and federal grant procedures, parliamentary rules and a basic understanding of effective government.

For the past 27 years the office of Selectman has had a woman serving on its Board. This custom brings as added dimension and philosophy into the realm of decision making.

If elected, I would continue to serve the community as my public record indicates, with leadership, compassion, and understanding.

2. As of April 19th, the return date of this questionnaire, there is no formal or definitive State Cap Proposal for the residents or town officials to comment on as a basis of fact, only conjecture.

However, the first draft proposal by the Governor would have had a broad adverse effect on the total community. I believe that the Governor and the State Legislature will come forward in the near future with a compromise proposal, that while stringent, will allow an increase in the percentile of Annual Municipal Budgets of approximately 4 per cent over last year, which is within reason.

I would strongly urge that at the Annual Town Meeting, those articles that are not of a priority nature, although acted on favorably, be held in abeyance until this serious State Cap Proposal with all fiscal and social ramifications is fully explained and understood by the taxpayers and residents.

Lester B. Hiltz
9 Cushing Road

1. I have been a legal resident of Cohasset for over thirty-six years and my family roots go back several more years. Because I was raised and educated in Cohasset, I have a deep concern for the growth and development of the community and a sincere interest in the well being of my fellow townspeople. With the formal education and training and years of experience in leadership, management and administration gained while serving in the United States Air Force, I believe that I can effectively execute the duties and responsibilities required of a member of the Board of Selectmen. My experience over the past five years while serving the Town of Cohasset as the Director of Civil Defense and Emergency Preparedness and as Director of the Auxiliary Police Unit has provided me with invaluable insight and knowledge of the operation of all Town Departments. In both of these important capacities, I have demonstrated by my actions a willingness to serve and the capability to discharge the public's trust. Being a semi-

retired person, I have the time and, most of all, the desire to diligently and honestly serve the citizens of Cohasset as Selectman.

2. A state Cap on spending will be an intrusion by the State into the fiscal affairs of the Town of Cohasset. This state mandated plan will be another encroachment by the state on Home Rule, amounting to further erosion of local control. The intent of the proposed cap on spending is idealistic, but it fails to allow for uncontrolled inflation, fiscal autonomy in the School Committee and binding arbitration in collective bargaining. Without some flexibility at the local level, essential programs and services would have to be reduced or ultimately eliminated. Expansion or improvement of special equipment or vehicles necessary for the health, welfare, protection or safety of the residents would be in jeopardy. And last, but not least, town employees would be denied cost-of-living pay increases. Although a tax cap would constrain spending, enhance fiscal discipline and eliminate some waste in government, it is unlikely that local property taxes would be reduced. The medicine that a tax cap provides appears to be far worse than the disease it attempts to cure. Furthermore, it infringes on the fundamental values and prerogatives of the citizens of Cohasset.

Rocco F. Laugelle
18 Norfolk Road

1. I am one of twelve children, born, raised, and educated in Cohasset. I am married with four children. I served in the Marine Corps during World War II. For 25 years I have been employed by Brockton Edison, in and around our community.

I am a member of the Government Island Study Committee, executive committee of American Legion (twice Post Commander), the Boards of Directors of the Community Center and Sailing Club. I have been a Water Commissioner for twelve years.

I seek the office of Selectman so I may better continue to serve Cohasset. Communities throughout the Commonwealth face difficult financial times. I am well aware of the need to carefully evaluate the expenditure of each and every tax dollar in today's inflationary spiral. I believe that I have the time and qualifications to be of service as a Selectman. I have been and will continue to be available to all.

2. At this point in time it is impossible to frame an intelligent answer to this question as the legislature and Governor have not defined the terms, form or limits of the "state cap." I do, however, agree that a cap in some form must be enacted to give the local property taxpayer some much needed relief.

Glenn A. Pratt
482 King Street

1. I believe I can bring to the office of Selectman an added source of sound management experience as well as an intimate knowledge of the town through lifetime resi-

dence and a decade of town service in several areas. My current term on the Planning Board has enabled me to participate in rewriting the Zoning By-laws. My service on the Personnel Board and the Committee to Study Central Purchasing has given me an overview of the operating departments of the town.

Involved in the day-to-day operation of a business employing several hundred persons, I am thoroughly versed in modern management practices, including personnel selection and direction, effective decision-making processes, and response to public needs.

I can see an opportunity in the office for enlisting more citizen talent in town affairs and to develop more coordination of committee functions.

I am prepared to make the time and energy commitment necessary for the office of Selectman.

2. Cohasset faces most of the general problems of our times including inflation and the rising costs of public services and education. In the recent past the town has operated under a philosophy of priority spending. Cohasset faces increased capital spending in the near future to upgrade and expand sewer and water services, as well as to enlarge and improve municipal office space. These additional capital expenditures to improve services and facilities will necessitate an increased operating budget. This, coupled with a state cap on spending will place Cohasset in a precarious position. Through careful management of town affairs and through a possible increased use of contract services, a balance must be struck between necessary efficiency and the public's wishes.

I believe that through proper management of town government the solution to operate under a cap on spending will evolve.

Assessor

1 position - 3 year term
Michael C. Patrolia
15 Cushing Road

Question No. 1: What in your background and experience qualifies you for the office you seek?

Question No. 2: What is the policy of the Board of Assessors when a property has been "improved" by the extension of town utilities such as water and sewer lines? Do you feel this policy represents the best interest of the taxpayer?

Michael C. Patrolia
15 Cushing Road

1. Completed courses in real estate and appraising at Burdett College. Completed appraisal course at Boston Center For Adult Education. 15 years in home building and remodeling. 9 year assessors.

2. The Board of Assessors does not have a policy in regards to water and sewer lines. The value of water lines to new homes is reflected in their sales. Those on the sewer lines we feel are assessed fairly; based on market value and in relation to other homes. I feel this policy is in

Candidate LWV Q

the best interest of the taxpayer.

School Committee

Question No. 1: What in your background and experience qualifies you for the office you seek?

Question No. 2: What changes would you like to see made in our school system? What additional costs or savings would these changes entail?

2 positions - 3 year term
Irene E. Brown
35 Norfolk Road

1. For the past 10 years, I have worked for and with the children of Cohasset — as a Girl Scout Leader, school volunteer, Communications Council member, Youth Hockey Treasurer, Recreation Commission member, and for the past 18 months as a member of the School Committee. I believe that this service to the youth of this Town has familiarized me with their parents and the educational goals that they wish to attain.

During my term on the School Committee, I have given these goals a number one priority, with no little consideration given to the taxpayers of this community, especially those living on fixed, or limited incomes. While I have been a Committee member, we have brought to the Town two of the lowest increase budgets in recent years.

2. While we have a very good school system, there is always room for improvement. Since 80 per cent of our budget is for negotiated salaries, and our school population is declining ever so gradually, we must concern ourselves that this 80 percent is correct and that we are fully utilizing our staff. The remaining 20 per cent does not leave much room for "frills," and while I do believe that our administrators have honestly presented us with their priorities, we must be constantly on the alert to keep our expenses in line. Inflation has raised havoc with everyone's budget, and the community must believe that the School Committee is aware of this fact, and is doing all that is possible to hold school spending down.

Martha K. Gjestebj
81 Old Pasture Road

1. For 18 years I have lived in Cohasset and during that period my four children have attended the Cohasset Public Schools. During this time, I have attended school committee meetings, volunteered in the schools, served on the Junior High and Senior High Communication Councils. I was past co-chairman of Junior High Council and am presently co-chairman of Se-